

Six Principles of IDEA

Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)

“The term ‘free appropriate public education’ means special education and related services that (A) have been provided at public expense, under public supervision and directions, and without charge; (B) meet the standards of the State educational agency; (C) include an appropriate preschool, elementary, or secondary school education in the State involved; and (D) are provided in conformity with the individualized education program required under section 614(d).” (Section 602(9))

Appropriate Evaluation

Evaluation teams should collect and examine multiple sources of data, including existing academic achievement and performance data. Additional assessments should be administered only as much as needed to identify the disability and guide the educational program to meet individual needs.

Evaluation activities should include gathering information related to enabling the child to be involved in and progress in the general curriculum or, for preschool children, to participate in appropriate activities.

Individualized Education Program

“The term ‘individualized education program’ or ‘IEP’ means a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, and revised in accordance with section 614(d).”

Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)

The presumption that children with disabilities are most appropriately educated with their non-disabled peers and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

Parent and Student Participation in Decision Making

“The Congress finds that following:...strengthening the role and responsibility of parents and ensuring that families of such children have meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children at home and at school.” (IDEA 2004, Findings, 601(c)(5)(B))

Procedural Safeguards

Safeguards to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected, that student with disabilities and their parents are provided with the information they need to make decisions about the provision of FAPE, and that procedures and mechanisms are in place to resolve disagreements between parties.

